

What is claimed is:

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C, 1. A method for converting aromatic hydrocarbons, which comprises contacting a benzene-containing, aromatic hydrocarbon material having a non-aromatic compound content of at most 1 % by weight, with a catalyst.

2. The method for converting aromatic hydrocarbons as claimed in claim 1, wherein non-aromatic compounds are first removed from a crude aromatic hydrocarbon material that contains benzene and non-aromatic compounds so as to make the non-aromatic compound content of the material reduced to at most 1 % by weight, and thereafter the material is converted.

3. The method for converting aromatic hydrocarbons as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon conversion is for transalkylation.

4. The method for converting aromatic hydrocarbons as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein hydrogen is present in the reaction system.

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C, 5. The method for converting aromatic hydrocarbons as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the starting material contains C9+ alkyl-aromatic hydrocarbons.

6. The method for converting aromatic hydrocarbons as claimed in claim 5, wherein benzene and C9+ aromatic hydrocarbons in the starting material are reduced and C7 and C8 aromatic hydrocarbons in the product are increased.

7. The method for converting aromatic hydrocarbons as

claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the catalyst contains zeolite.

8. The method for converting aromatic hydrocarbons as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the catalyst contains at least one of metals of Group VIB, Group VIIB and Group VIII of the Periodic Table.

9. The method for converting aromatic hydrocarbons as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the catalyst contains mordenite and rhenium.

10. A method for producing C7 and C8 aromatic hydrocarbons, which comprises mixing a benzene-containing fraction obtained through gasoline fractionation, with an aromatic hydrocarbon material that contains C9+ aromatic hydrocarbons, reducing the non-aromatic compound content of the resulting mixture to at most 1 % by weight, then contacting the mixture with a catalyst to thereby convert the aromatic hydrocarbons therein, and separating the resulting C7 and C8 aromatic hydrocarbons from the reaction mixture.

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